

CVRA BOARD MEETING MINUTES
December 4, 2014

Present

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|----------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Loydene Berg | Lyndsey Green | Julie Summers | Nichole Alder, AG's Office |
| Sandi Johnson | JoAnn Huber | Tallie Viteri | Paul Tonks, AG's Office |
| Michael Madsen | Tisha Littlewood | Christine Watters | <u>Excused</u> |
| Shane Minor | Lori Maroney | Dana Thomas | Dave Fowers |
| Diane Stuart | Mark McDermott | Connie Wettlaufer | Chet Loftis |
| Gary Scheller | Dale Oyler | Cecilia Gutierrez | |

Dr. Madsen convened the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

1. Approval of the September 23, 2014 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Loydene Berg, seconded by Shane Minor, to approve the September 23, 2014 minutes as written. Motion passed. All in favor.

2. VAWA Grant Recommendations for Approval

Christine Watters, Julie Summers

Christine presented a summary of the handout entitled 2015 S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women (VAWA) Solicitation, Review and Recommendation process. Request for Proposal solicitation letters were mailed to 1217 applicable agencies. Seventy-six people attended one of the three mandatory trainings. Funding available for allocation totaled \$1,356,123. Each of the 48 VAWA Request for Proposals received was reviewed by one of the six screening and allocation committees. The committees recommended that 44 ongoing projects be continued, 3 new proposals be funded and 1 new proposal not be funded. Julie reviewed in detail the second handout named Funding Documentation for the 2015 VAWA Grant Requests. This document listed all the applicants by funding category with the amount of the request along with the committee recommendation for the 2015 award. The Board members studied the information provided for their review and approval. **A motion was made by Diane Stuart, seconded by Sandi Johnson, to approve the document as presented. Motion passed. All in favor.**

3. SASP Grant Recommendations for Approval

Christine Watters, Tallie Viteri

Christine and Tallie presented the information on the 2015 SASP solicitation. Only non-profit rape recovery centers are eligible to apply for the Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) grant funds. Solicitation letters were sent to the 10 non-profit rape recovery centers throughout the state. One training/workshop was held to assist agencies developing SASP proposals. The screening and allocation committee recommended a total of \$257,251.36 be awarded. The 2015 SASP Award Summary handout provided the Board with the individual agency requests and the committee award recommendations. **A motion was made by Loydene Berg, seconded by Shane Minor, to approve the award recommendations as presented. Motion passed. All in favor.**

4. Financial Update

Gary Scheller

Gary reported that the Trust Fund will have a two million dollar increase this year due to CCJJ no longer being part of UOVC's budget. He provided a handout that outlined a 6 year revenue and expenditure summary for the office. Gary anticipates the surcharge amount to be around 6.5 million dollars this year. The total projected revenue for FY 2015 is 9.7 million dollars and victim payments are projected to be around 7.2 million dollars. When combined with the administrative costs, the total expenditures are expected to be around 9.2 million dollars. Based on current numbers, the bottom line for the year looks like the Trust Fund will show a positive balance of \$500,000 as opposed to the negative balance from last year. UOVC will definitely be in a better position financially this year from last year.

5. Three Year Rule, Collateral Source, "Extenuating Circumstance" Extensions Gary Scheller

Gary led a discussion on the granting of benefit extensions for claims with extenuating circumstances. Many of UOVC Administrative Rules give the Board the authority to waive benefit caps at the request of the victims/claimants. Gary said the office policy has gone back and forth on the issue of whether extensions should or should not be granted. Gary recommended that the Board consider the option of not granting anymore benefit extensions until UOVC has a reserve in the 3.5 to 5 million dollar range. The requests from victims can be heart wrenching and hard to say no to; however, Gary feels it would be fiscally more prudent to have a sounder financial foundation before considering granting benefit extensions.

Shane agreed that it might be good to not grant extensions until Gary is more comfortable with the financial condition of the fund. At that time, the policy could be re-evaluated. Sandi expressed concern regarding a policy where no extensions would be considered. She would like to have an option for Board review on cases with extreme extenuating circumstances. Sandi believes the Board philosophy is also to assist the victims. Staff would like to have a fair policy, no matter what decision was made. Mark said there are always going to be extenuating circumstances, but the compensation program is a short term, temporary source of assistance, and in order to afford the ability to continue to help victims with the basic needs, he does not favor granting benefit extensions. Dana felt that if no extensions were going to be granted, outreach was needed to inform the advocates who help victims apply for UOVC assistance. Dr. Madsen felt it was a valuable discussion, and the reminder of how these types of cases are being handled was helpful, but said we all need to have a heart in this issue. It is hard to be the gatekeepers and make recommendations, but that is part of the job. Gary will meet with staff on this issue and set policy.

6. Legislative Notes and Surcharge Strategies, Review of Victim Claims and Subrogation Cases
(Closed Meeting)

A motion was made by Diane Stuart, seconded by Sandi Johnson, to close the meeting for the review of victim claims and subrogation cases. Motion passed. All in favor. After completion of the closed portion of the meeting, a motion was made by Diane Stuart, seconded by Sandi Johnson, to reopen the meeting.

7. Board Vote on Victim Requests and Subrogation Cases

A. 1029051

Lori Maroney

UOVC has paid 12 weeks loss of wages at the maximum allowed of \$790 per week for a total of \$9480. The victim is requesting the Board consider an additional 3 weeks loss of wages at \$790 per week totaling \$2,370. **A motion was made by Diane Stuart, seconded by Loydene Berg, to deny the request for the additional 3 weeks loss of wage compensation. Motion passed. All in favor.**

B. 1028979

JoAnn Huber

The maximum of \$1500 allowed for essential personal property has been paid for crime scene cleanup. A request has been made for Board consideration of payment of \$2,207.54, the outstanding balance owed for crime scene cleanup. **A motion was made by Shane Minor, seconded by Sandi Johnson, to deny the request for payment beyond the \$1500 allowable. Motion passed. All in favor.**

C. 1012176

JoAnn Huber

A request was received asking that the Board consider an additional 2.5 weeks of loss of wages beyond the twelve week maximum allowed. **A motion was made by Sandi Johnson, seconded by Diane Stuart, to deny the request for an extension of the loss of wage benefit. Motion passed. One opposed.**

D. 1023934

Dana Thomas

A request was received asking that the Board reduce UOVC's lien on this claim by 10%. **A motion was made by Diane Stuart, seconded by Sandi Johnson, to approve the 10% reduction. A second motion was made by Loydene Berg to deny the request. After discussion, the second motion was withdrawn. Motion passed. One opposed.**

8. Rape Kit Processing

Gary Scheller

At the request of Dr. Madsen, Gary studied how law enforcement agencies were handling the processing of the Code R kits. It has come to light recently that many of the kits collected for evidence have been sitting on shelves in evidence rooms and have never been sent to the lab to be processed. Representative Selig asked CCJJ to conduct a study on the issue. A survey completed as part of the study showed there were around 2700 Code R kits statewide that had not ever been sent to the lab. Gary attended many of the meetings. He reported that at first law enforcement agencies had differing opinions on how the kits should be processed. Currently, it is the choice of the law enforcement agency whether to send the kits to the lab. Over the course of the meetings, there was more agreement among law enforcement agencies that all the kits should be sent out for processing. The Department of Public Safety Crime Lab and the National Institute of Justice are the primary sources of funding the processing of the kits. Gary said they are all hopeful that within the next couple of years, all the kits sitting on shelves will have been processed and the DNA registered in the offender databases.

The next meeting will be held on March 26, 2015.

The meeting was adjourned.